

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM 318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Sayegh, Sullivan

Thursday

May 19, 2022

(Physical Svcs. Comm Mtg. Immediately Followed)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Sayegh, and Chairwoman Nacerino was present. Chairwoman Nacerino stated Legislator Sullivan was running late. Legislator Sullivan arrived at 7:10PM.

Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ April 21, 2022

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A028)/ Sheriff's Dept./Additional Funds from State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co./ Complete the Repair of the Patrol Vehicle involved in an Accident on February 22, 2022/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Chairwoman Nacerino requested Sheriff McConville please speak to this.

Sheriff McConville stated additional damage was discovered to the vehicle after the initial review of the vehicle. He stated this was explained at last month's Protective Services Meeting. He stated State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co., agreed to make them whole, he stated this budgetary amendment reflects that payment.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A028)/ Sheriff's Dept./Additional Funds from State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co./ Complete the Repair of the Patrol Vehicle involved in an Accident on February 22, 2022; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item#5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (22T029)/ Sheriff's Dept./ Funds to Purchase AXON Tasers and Body-Worn Cameras plus Necessary Hardware and Accessories/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Sheriff McConville explained that initially they thought there was an issue with the remote charging capabilities, however that has been resolved. He stated the Policy has been finalized. He stated they have an agreement from the PBA. He stated they will be able to move forward with this fund transfer request in the coming days.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Tabling Fund Transfer (22T029)/ Sheriff's Dept./ Funds to Purchase AXON Tasers and Body-Worn Cameras plus Necessary Hardware and Accessories to the May Audit or a Special Protective Services Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item#6 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A031)/ Sheriff's Dept./ State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Program Grant Award/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Sheriff McConville and Undersheriff Lindert were present to speak to this item. She explained the Legislature passed Resolution #311 in 2019 permitting the Sheriff's Department to apply for this grant.

Undersheriff Lindert stated it appeared the grant that was applied for in 2018 and was awarded, but it went stagnant. He stated the grant was resurrected and Senator Harckham was contacted, as he was a part of the initial process. He stated Senator Harckham was a big help in getting this funding back to the County.

Legislator Jonke questioned if this was the grant that was promised to the County, but it was put on hold.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that is correct and expressed her appreciation to Senator Harckham for his assistance.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A031)/ Sheriff's Dept./ State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Program Grant Award; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #7 - FYI/ Grant Application/ Sheriff's Department/ State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Grant Program/ Sheriff Kevin McConville (*Determined after the 5/12/22 Protective Svcs Mtg. a Resolution was needed*)

Undersheriff Lindert stated this is a SAM grant from NYS Senator James Skoufis. He stated they are in the application process, but they need Legislative approval.

Sheriff McConville stated the funding, if awarded, would be used in the Town of Philipstown, particularly at the substation.

Item #8 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A030)/ Bureau of Emerg. Svcs./ Awarded Funding from 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Administered by the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services on Behalf of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/ BES Commissioner Ken Clair

Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Ken Clair stated the budget lines have been set up for the Homeland Security Grant. He stated the budget lines are: rescue equipment, two (2) lines for medical equipment, audio visual, cyber security, automotive, and for the Sheriff's Office the budget lines are: Other Equipment (License Plate Readers (LPR), Rescue Equipment (vests), and Contracts (overtime backfill).

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the guidelines of the grant state that 25% of the award must be directed towards the enforcement terrorism preventive activities. Deputy Finance Commissioner Lewis did confirm to her that the budget lines, for the Sheriff's Office meet those requirements. She stated there are no matching funds required.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A030)/ Bureau of Emerg. Svcs./ Awarded Funding from 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Administered by the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services on Behalf of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #9 - Update/ Putnam County Radio Project/ Director IT/GIS Thomas Lannon & Commissioner BES Ken Clair

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Director IT/GIS Lannon and Commissioner BES Clair are present to speak to this item. She stated the County's Radio Project is very important to providing safety to our residents and first responders. She stated she sent a memo to the County Executive requesting consideration that a portion of the ARPA funds be considered for this project.

Director IT/GIS Lannon expressed his appreciation for Chairwoman Nacerino's support and participation on behalf of the Fire and EMS departments. He stated this Radio Project will serve our first responders, and the county employees who use the radios will be utilizing this system as well. He stated it is a large-scale project that has also been opened to all of the municipalities and school districts. He stated at the end of this we want it to be an interoperable system. He stated this project has been planned and worked on with a focus on meeting everyone's needs. He stated that the County would like to make sure the emergency equipment that is required is supplied to departments. He stated he does have a final list from the Fire Departments of the radios needed. He stated that list will go to Motorola for a final discounted price to finish the project. He stated the original project cost was \$9,746,000. He stated Motorola discounted it and it was reduced to \$6,698,000. He stated there is also a new microwave system that was put in at a cost of \$2.6million. He stated that was paid for with grant funding. He stated everything has been a moving target as they have worked to bring things together.

Commissioner BES Clair stated the list of radios are as follows: 94 single-band portables, 40 multi-band portables, 67 mobiles - single heads, 29 mobiles - dual heads, 38 multi-band mobiles & 22 bay stations. He stated every Fire Chief, Fire Officer, EMS Officer will receive the 8,500 model and all the others will be for the first response vehicles and will get the 6,500 model: ambulances, fire engines, rescue trucks. He stated and there will be one (1) portable for each truck. He stated this has been communicated to the Fire Departments. He reiterated what Director Lannon said, the goal was to provide enough radios to the departments to support the system. He stated every County Fire and EMS agency will be covered.

Director I/T GIS Lannon spoke to the differences of the radios: a single-band radio works with the County system and any trunk radio system in New York. He stated a lot of departments are going to a trunk radio system, but some are not. He continued to elaborate on this and the thinking behind the distribution of the different radios throughout the Fire and EMS agencies. He

stated the remaining estimated cost to date to finish the Radio Project, including the new radio count, is \$2,900,000. He stated there are future costs. He stated the County will still need to have shelters put in at all the towers, and they cost between \$300,000 - \$400,000 per shelter. He stated there is still an outstanding issue in Nelsonville. He stated the location that was selected is in litigation. He stated the Town of Philipstown offered an area near their salt shed. He stated the County will need to pay for that and he estimates it to be \$650,000. He stated the total cost to finalize the project is approximately \$5,313,000. He stated there is a balance in grant funding of \$3,639,000 which leaves a balance of \$1,673,000. He stated again it is a moving target, but at this time he is comfortable with his estimates. He stated if \$2 million or even \$2.5 million of ARPA funds could be applied to the Radio Project it would cover these costs. He stated there will be recurring costs: annually \$171,000 for tower rentals, \$280,000 warranty for the radios (totaling \$451,000/annual costs). He stated there is a New York State Grant, SICG (Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant) that the County has received each year and it is over \$500,000, and that would cover the recurring costs. He stated the SICG Grant funding can only be used on radios.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated a lot of years have been invested in this project. She stated interoperability is something the County has been striving for. She stated this is a Putnam County project. She expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Clair for reaching out to all of the Fire Departments to ensure them of the inventory the County will provide. She stated if there is anything they will need above and beyond what the County will be providing, they will need to budget for that.

Commissioner BES Clair stated that was brought up at last evening's County Chief's meeting and made very clear to them.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated keeping the lines of communication open is paramount. She stated This will be discussed again when ARPA funding is determined.

Director IT/GIS Lannon stated he has had discussions with Commissioner Carlin and he is very aware and he is holding a spot for it, but he needs the final amount.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what does the SCIG Grant funding currently pay for.

Director IT/GIS Lannon stated it has been used on different parts of the Radio Project. He stated the County spends a lot of money, over \$500,000 annually leasing the County's current Radio System. He stated that money is returned back to the County. He stated the microwave lease will be gone, because we have a new one that has been bought and paid for. He stated all of our Radio leases in our departments will come out of the budgets. He stated the SCIG will cover the expenses, and if the ARPA funding is used, the County will be free and clear.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the County will be buying radios for each Fire Department.

Commissioner BES Clair stated yes.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification that all of the local towns first responders will all be able to communicate to each other throughout the County.

Director IT/GIS Lannon stated that is correct.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how long the warranty is on the radios.

Director IT/GIS Lannon stated with the annual cost it is a ten (10) year warranty. He stated Motorola says the radios should be good for about 20 years.

Legislator Albano questioned if the radios come with some kind of warranty.

Director IT/GIS Lannon stated they do. They come with a one (1) year, so we will be paying for nine (9) years.

Legislator Albano questioned how many shelters need to be constructed.

Director IT/GIS Lannon listed the tower sites where shelters will be needed: WHUD, Taconic, Piano, Philipstown, and the Golf Course (5).

Item #10 - Update/ Putnam County's ALS Services – Ambulnz/ Commissioner BES Ken Clair and Chief of EMS Operations Michael Witkowski

Commissioner BES Clair stated he was aware there was a discussion at the March and April Protective Meetings regarding the Fire Advisory Board (FAB) considering forming an ALS Oversight Committee. He stated he and representatives from Ambulnz are here this evening to speak to how well the current ALS Services- Ambulnz is working in the County.

Ambulnz Director of Operations Nelson Machado stated he will start with speaking to the staffing. He stated they are stable. He stated at the start of their contract they did bring some people for outside the County. He stated they are looking at suspending that, because there are a lot of local people applying for positions. He stated some of them have actually worked for the County in the past. He stated their Medical Director speaks with the County's Medical Director on a regular basis. He stated in their meetings they address any quality issues that have been brought to them. He stated it is his understanding that any issues that have been brought forward have been closed out. He stated the communication system issues that have come up have been addressed, at Ambulnz costs. He spoke in more detail to the steps that have been taken to improve and provide backup in terms of communication. He stated documentation and billing have been resolved, the January bills were zeroed out due to the tumultuous launch they experienced in January.

Commissioner BES Clair stated he knows it was discussed at past meetings that the Fire Advisory Board (FAB) was considering forming a subcommittee to provide oversight of the ALS Provider. He stated that is not necessary. He stated the communications with the new ALS provider, Ambulnz is phenomenal.

Ambulnz Supervisor Jen Hunt spoke to their structure process and procedure.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated for the record that the FAB discussed this matter and decided they would not be forming the ALS subcommittee at this time. She facilitated further discussion on this matter.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is happy to hear that effort has been put towards improving communication because it is so important.

Legislator Jonke stated he had a constituent who had an issue regarding response time of an ambulance, a few months ago, which he did communicate to the Bureau of Emergency Services. He questioned if records are kept of response time and if yes, how do they compare to they way they were, prior to Ambulnz coming on board.

Commissioner BES Clair stated he could look into that, but he would believe the response time is better because they have added a full-time Supervisor with the new contract.

Ambulnz Supervisor Jen Hunt spoke to how the Ambulnz staffing has been set up to improve response times.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if they are leasing space in Putnam County.

Ambulnz Director of Operations Nelson Machado stated they are leasing space in Mahopac and Putnam Valley Grange.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how did they come about selecting the space in Mahopac that they were renting.

Ambulnz Director of Operations Nelson Machado stated it was done through a realtor.

Legislator Albano stated Ambulnz is renting one of his buildings.

Legislator Montgomery stated that raises some concerns. She stated she believes it to be very unethical that a company that has a Contract with the County is renting space from a County Legislator.

Legislator Albano stated he does not see anything unethical about this. He sated his son, who is a realtor worked on the renting the office space. He stated the County Legislature had nothing to do with the Contact negotiated with Ambulnz.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated further discussion on that matter.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how the transformation is going in Putnam Valley.

Ambulnz Supervisor Jen Hunt explained they have been well received and folks have stopped by on multiple occasions. She stated as a result the Ambulnz employees feel welcomed, wanted and accepted.

Commissioner BES Clair stated the Grange in Putnam Valley is a great location for Ambulnz. He stated Putnam Valley Supervisor Annabi was very helpful in the interim, until the space was ready. He briefly spoke to the benefits for each party.

**Item #11 - FYI/ 2022 Southeast Fireworks Event at the Highlands Shopping Center/
Legislator Joseph Castellano**

Legislator Castellano stated he would like to provide some background. He stated in 2013 some of the local business owners in the Town of Southeast funded a Fireworks event for July 4th. He stated from 2013 and beyond, the event grew in popularity and the number of participants grew. He stated two (2) County Departments got involved: the Sheriff's Department and Emergency Services and helped with the event. He stated then when COVID hit the event was cancelled in 2019 and 2020, and in 2021 they were unable to fund raise to support the event. He stated this year, as they are still in the process of fundraising, the event will happen on July 3rd. He stated the Town of Southeast wanted to make sure that the County agencies were aware of the upcoming event.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there is a record of the number of attendees.

Legislator Castellano stated there is not an exact number, but there are over a thousand parking spots in the Highlands parking area. He stated additionally there are people who watch from surroundings areas. Stated the projected number is approximately 3,000- 5,000 people. He stated many people expressed their disappointed that the event had not taken place in the past three (3) years. He stated the cost of fireworks has gone up about 25%, he stated so the cost is high. He stated they are still trying to raise another couple of thousand to reach their goal.

Chairwoman Nacerino spoke to the popularity of the event that enjoyed by families in our community and visitors. She expressed her appreciation to Legislator Castellano and Legislator Jonke, who is also a member of the Southeast Fireworks Committee (SFC), for their hard work and dedication to hosting such a great event.

Legislator Jonke stated the Southeast Fireworks Committee has a Facebook page where folks can go to see the local businesses who have made donations to support this event. He stated it would be difficult to ever get an accurate number of people who enjoy the Firework Display hosted by the SFC. He explained in addition to the very large number of people that gather at the Highlands Shopping Center parking lot, people watch the display from the parking lot at Department of Motor Vehicles, Tilly Foster Farm, the Park and Ride. He reiterated that it is a great event, and he thinks it is great to bring the community together for such a great family event.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the wording in the letter from the SFC about "financial help this year". She questioned what is the financial help that has been given.

Legislator Castellano stated the County has not given “financial” help. He explained in the past the County did fund the Sheriff’s Department overtime.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the Legislature and Sheriff’s Department provided said support for other Towns’ Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated not to her knowledge. She referred to the fact, as Legislator Castellano explained, this is not a municipal run event. She stated it is through the generous support of donations and the efforts of the SFC fundraising that the event is held. She stated it is incumbent upon the County to provide a safe environment for 3,000- 4,000 people gathering.

Legislator Montgomery stated there are business sponsored Fireworks events sponsored in Philipstown etc.

Legislator Castellano explained when this event was first held it was done at a Town Park. He stated but the Town stopped the event, that is when the businesses stepped in and formed a committee to host the event. He stated in the first year the SFC did not give notice to the County, they informed the Village of Brewster Fire Department. He stated after the first year event it was recognized that exiting the event was not smooth. He stated the SFC was contacted by the County’s Commissioner of Health who notified them they should have had porta potties and the Sheriff’s Department contacted SFC stating they should have been contacted of the event. He stated the SFC requested guidance on what they needed to do to host the event and requested assistance to get it done. He stated the event is held on private property, it is not a town event, if the Sheriff’s Department does not have a need to be there, then so be it. He stated he does believe all should be done to keep the citizens safe.

Chairwoman Nacerino expressed her agreement.

Legislator Albano stated he believes it to be logical to support this request and have the Sheriff’s Department present.

Legislator Sullivan stated he agrees this is a great event. He stated the matter is only on the agenda as an FYI.

Legislator Montgomery stated as clarification in the letter, which is the backup to this agenda item, it states they are asking for financial assistance. She stated she is trying to get a better understanding on how the County agrees to offer services to some Towns. She stated she too wants to make sure that we are keeping people safe and secure.

Item #12 - Other Business - None

Item #13 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:25 PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.